



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
WARNS CONSUMERS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR  
UNSCRUPULOUS PAVERS GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR  
THROUGHOUT WEST VIRGINIA**

Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division has received reports that traveling pavers have arrived in the Kanawha County area. Such scam artists often go door-to-door offering to pave consumers' driveways with asphalt they claim has been left over from another job. Because the asphalt is left over, the con men tell the consumer he can offer a steep discount on the job.

Once the work is done, the paving outfit demands large amounts of money, which were not part of the original deal. Part of the scheme may include the con men following the consumer to his bank to withdraw money or get a check cashed. "Consumers feel intimidated, and generally pay whatever is demanded. In addition, the quality of the work is shoddy. Frequently, the asphalt crumbles or weeds grow through it within a week," said Attorney General McGraw.

Tips to follow before hiring a contractor are:

1. Avoid door-to-door work crews who often pose as contractors from another job with left over materials, like gravel or roofing supplies;
2. Avoid a contractor who does not provide a written contract containing all of the terms of the work BEFORE work is started;
3. Avoid a contractor who can only be reached by leaving a message on an answering machine;
4. Avoid a contractor who drives an unmarked van or has an out of state license plate on his vehicle;
5. Avoid a contractor who pressures you for an immediate decision;
6. Avoid a contractor who offers you a discount for finding him other customers;
7. Avoid a contractor who quotes a price that is too cheap;
8. Ask for proof of insurance and find out whether he is bonded. Make sure he takes responsibility for an injury to his workers;

9. Pay by check or credit card, if possible, avoid on the spot cash payments.

10. Do not take the contractor's word that he has a valid contractor's license. Rather, check with the West Virginia Contractor's Licensing Board. The Contractor's Licensing Board's telephone number is (304) 558-7890.

If you have been approached by one of these pavers, please report the matter as quickly as possible to your local police, the state police or Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808 or 558-8986.

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